

Top Secret 219

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Wednesday 4 October 1978 CG NIDC 78/232

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION
Unauthorized Disclosure Subject to Criminal Sanctions

State Dept. review
completed

DIA review(s)
completed.

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Wednesday, 4 October 1978.

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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EGYPT: Reshaping the Government

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[redacted] Egypt's announcement yesterday that War Minister Jamasi and Chief of Staff Fahmi have been removed from their posts is probably part of President Sadat's reshaping of the government and preparations for implementing the Camp David accords, although the announcement was unusually abrupt.

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[redacted] According to press reports, both Jamasi and Fahmi have been appointed military advisers to Sadat. /

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[redacted] DIA expects that Jamasi's role will include acting as a special adviser on Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations.//

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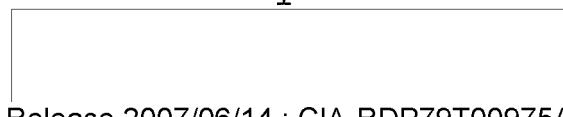
[redacted] Fahmi's replacement was named immediately, but Jamasi's successor will apparently be appointed by the newly designed Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil, who is expected to announce a new cabinet within the week. Sources of the US Embassy in Cairo report that Kamal Hassan Ali, the head of Egyptian General Intelligence, will be named to replace Jamasi. Ali is one of Sadat's most trusted advisers and enjoys a personal rapport with Sadat and the armed forces that Jamasi has never had.

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[redacted] The announcement of Jamasi's removal appears to have been handled by the press with a notable lack of ceremony. It is possible that Sadat's admonition to the press in his speech earlier this week to be more careful in handling news events caused this abrupt treatment; the change may be given fuller elaboration when the press receives clearer directions from Sadat's office. [redacted]

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NATO: Arms Control Issues

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[redacted] //NATO disarmament experts today begin their semi-annual meeting at Alliance headquarters outside Brussels. A discussion of the many arms control issues that will be raised at the current session of the UN General Assembly will probably dominate the two-day session. The conferees will also review the General Assembly's special session on disarmament, held last May and June, and consider the crowded calendar of disarmament negotiations through 1980.//

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[redacted] //The West Germans are seeking the support of other NATO members for a draft General Assembly resolution endorsing regional confidence-building measures worldwide, along the lines of those already agreed to by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Separate consultations among disarmament experts from the European Community have produced broad support for the West German initiative.//

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[redacted] //A key subject will be the security guarantees that nuclear powers and their allies can offer to states without nuclear weapons. The Third World remains interested in such arrangements, and the Soviets have again offered a proposal to the General Assembly. The EC's disarmament experts think the Soviet guarantees are filled with loopholes, and the talks within NATO will focus on providing assurances more attractive to the Third World states than those of the Soviets.//

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[redacted] //The meeting probably will also consider the UK's proposal for organizational changes to enhance consultation within NATO on arms control issues. Discussion of the initiative within the North Atlantic Council last week produced wide support for more frequent, substantive exchanges on arms control subjects, but there was little enthusiasm for altering the existing structure. [redacted]

USSR-FRANCE: Gromyko Visit

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[redacted] Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko will try to convey an image of forward movement in relations with France during his three-day visit there, which begins on 25 October. The Soviet press is again carrying favorable commentary on French policies, and a Soviet Air Force squadron made a goodwill visit to France early in September.

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[redacted] The Soviet approach to France follows President Brezhnev's successful visit to West Germany in June. In general, the USSR is seeking to improve its relations with any West European state that agrees that detente in the region is essential but is endangered because there has been no major diplomatic breakthrough. The Soviets seem willing to defer progress on resolving hard bilateral problems under this new approach--at least temporarily.

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[redacted] The USSR has lately demonstrated a willingness to finesse a number of difficult issues that several months ago seemed likely to sour its entire relationship with France. Talks on the two countries' policies in Africa resolved little, but both sides have apparently left behind the mutual bitterness that resulted from the French intervention in Zaire earlier this year.

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[redacted] The Soviets have been advocating increased bilateral trade and, although quick results are unlikely, this may soothe French disappointment over the slow growth in economic relations. Apparently dormant for the time being are French proposals for European disarmament extending "to the Urals," which the USSR opposes.

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[redacted] France does not want Soviet relations with West Germany to be closer than Soviet-French relations, and the Soviets will presumably try to exploit this, although recent successful meetings between French President Giscard and West German Chancellor Schmidt may reduce the opportunity to introduce wedges between the two countries.

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[redacted] Proposed French weapons sales to China could seriously disrupt relations between the USSR and France, despite both sides' desire for progress. The Soviets have repeatedly indicated that they would view such a transaction as an unfriendly act, but a sale is unlikely before Gromyko's visit.

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BRIEF

Comoros

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[redacted] The Comoros voted in a constitutional referendum last Sunday to establish a Federal Republic. Ahmed Abdallah--a copresident in the ruling Political Directorate--is likely to run unopposed in the coming presidential election, now that his counterpart has resigned.

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[redacted] In another step to clear up the Comoros' ambiguous political situation, Abdallah last week relieved Bob Denard of his post as head of the armed forces; Denard is the French mercenary who led the coup that brought the Political Directorate to power four months ago. The Political Directorate had received widespread criticism from African countries over its continued association with Denard, and his prominent role in the islands' government led to the exclusion of the Comorian delegation from the summit of the Organization of African Unity in July. [redacted]

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